

Benjamin Stott

SONGS FOR THE MILLIONS and other poems

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CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION!!

"PEACE and ORDER" is our MOTTO!

TO THE WORKING MEN OF LONDON.

Fellow Men,—The Press having misrepresented and vilified us and our intentions, the Demonstration Committee therefore consider it to be their duty to state that the grievances of us (the Working Classes) are deep and our demands just. We and our families are pining in misery, want, and starvation! We demand a fair day's wages for a fair day's work! We are the slaves of capital—we demand protection to our labour. We are political serfs—we demand to be free. We therefore invite all well disposed to join in our peaceful procession on

MONDAY NEXT, April 10,

As it is for the good of all that we seek to remove the evils under which we groan.

The following are the places of Meeting of THE CHARTISTS, THE TRADES, THE IRISH CONFEDERATE & REPEAL BODIES:

East Division on Stepney Green at 8 o'clock; City and Finsbury Division on Clerkenwell Green at 9 o'clock; West Division in Russell Square at 9 o'clock; and the South Division in Peckham Fields at 9 o'clock, and proceed from thence to Kennington Common.

Signed on behalf of the Committee, JOHN ARNOTT, Sec.

Songs for the Millions et al Benjamin Stott

Songs for the Millions et al Benjamin Stott

Born in Manchester, and a bookbinder by trade, Benjamin Stott was an active trade unionist and member of the Chartist movement. Songs of the Millions, a suite of seventeen short poems in which Stott experimented with a variety of forms, was his best known work. Poverty and famine, injustice and the brutality of the police and their spies, solidarity and resistance are his themes. A devout militant Christian, Stott saved some of his most powerful words for the clergy who urged the working masses to wait patiently in poverty for their reward in the next world. The miscellaneous poems that complete this collection, include Stott's long ode to the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity, which remains the largest fraternal organization of its kind in the United Kingdom. (Phil Benson)

Read by Phil Benson. Total running time: 1:50:18

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